

St. John's Lutheran Church, Ruma
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
8446 1st Road Evansville, IL 62242

Rev. Jonathan Winterfeldt, Pastor

Call 618-830-6762 e-mail: JWinterfel@aol.com

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

March 15, 2026

Matins with Confession and Absolution, LSB 151 and 219

Hymn: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Stand

Confession and Absolution, LSB 151

Confession and Absolution

LSB 151

Matins, LSB 219

Common Versicles

LSB 219

Stand

Lent Versicles

LSB 219

Psalmody

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 220

Sit

Readings

Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

P A reading from Isaiah, chapter 42.

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?

Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;

his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

P A reading from Ephesians, chapter 5.

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 9

P A reading from John, chapter 9.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go,

wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are

his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Lent

LSB 222

Sit

Sermon Hymn: 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

Sermon: Eyes to See

John 9:1-41

Canticle

Stand

Te Deum

LSB 223

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227

Lord's Prayer

LSB 227

Collects

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 228

Hymn to Depart: 744 Amazing Grace

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Please place your offerings in the plate at the back of church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

***for healing and strength** for Mark, Becky, Helen, Cara, David, Elaine, Sarah, Art and Gladys, Linda, Delbert, Brian, Dawn, Susan, Robert, Jace, Mary, and Dorothy

***for comfort** for the family and friends of Paul Liefer

***for all members of the military, police, and firefighters including** Jace and Ryan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR CHURCH

Organist Diann Scherle

Sunday School Teachers

Amanda Roedl, Sunday School director and 5th through 8th grade;
Kaley Roedl, pre-school through 4th grade; Joy Meyer, handbells.

Officers

Dennis Phegley, chairman; Deb McCutcheon, secretary; Diann Scherle, treasurer; Jill Phegley, assistant treasurer; Brian Liefer, Jonathan Mehring, and Tim Schrader, elders; Matt Roedl, Jeff Schlueter, and Byron Schlueter, trustees.

TO CONTACT PASTOR WINTERFELDT

Call or text: (618) 830-6762. Email: jwinterfel@aol.com

TO SHARE INFORMATION

Church Council: Dennis Phegley, chairman; Brian Liefer, elder; Jonathan Mehring, elder; Timothy Schrader, elder.

Church Bulletin: By Wednesday afternoon, send email to church address (stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com) or give Deb a written note at church.

Church Facebook Page: Directly message *StJohnEvLutheranChurchRumaIL*, send an email to the church email address (above), or ask Amanda to have your information posted.

FOR MORE ONLINE INFORMATION

Church Facebook Page: *StJohnEvLutheranRumaIL* for Sunday School activities and church news updates.

Church Website: Check the website for the week's bulletin, a calendar of church activities, and links to all things LCMS. Look for us at www.stjohnlutheranruma.com.

Pastor's YouTube Channel:

If you are unable to attend services or want to listen again to a particular sermon, go to "jwinterfel" on YouTube where Pastor posts a recording of each week's service. You will also find video recordings of each of the six Bible Presentations for 2026.

PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

By purchasing our Ladies Aid Apple Butter for only \$5 a pint or \$8 a quart: The Ladies Aid uses the money to buy items for our church and for area food pantries. They also donate to COSHLS and LWML. See Pearl May or Marlene Ling to buy a jar. **The shelves are restocked with fresh apple butter!**

By working with the Sochowski family as Susan recovers from a stroke. At our request, Mark has provided a list of concrete ways we can help. A copy of the list is available on the pew in back of church.

By leaving non-perishable food items in the back of church. The Ladies Aid/LWML members are collecting for area food pantries.

By donating toward our Lutheran Heritage Foundation Mission Project for 2026... This year's project will once again project will once again focus on children in Ghana. Every \$5.00 donation provides a beautiful hardcover Bible storybook for children in the Kusaal language. **Write Ghana in the memo line of your check or on an envelope with cash.** We will send collected money to LHF at the end of each quarter in 2026. *Check out Diann's bulletin board display just outside the Fellowship Hall for more information.*

By donating to Trinity Lutheran School to help pay teacher salaries. A letter from Trinity explaining the need is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You can mail your donation directly or put it in an envelope marked Trinity Lutheran School and leave the envelope in our collection plate. Jill and Diann will forward the money.

By bringing altar flowers: You are welcome to provide fresh flowers for a special occasion or just because. Check the sign-up list in the Fellowship Hall to see what months are available. Please let Deb know by Wednesday afternoon so she can acknowledge the gift and occasion in the bulletin.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday School students will meet via Zoom.

Wednesday, Mar. 18: Midweek Lent worship moves here at St. John's at 6:30p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 26: LWML Spring Renewal at Immanuel Lutheran Church, West Point. Registration begins at 8:30. Devotions begin at 9 a.m. “Compassion, Forgiveness, and Mercy” is the theme.

Tuesday, Mar. 31: The last day to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to the charity or charities of your choice. You can direct dollars online or by calling your Thrivent representative. If you direct dollars to our church, let Jill know which account you want your dollars to benefit.

Wednesday, April 1: The **last day to register** for this spring’s Lutheran Older Adult Retreat at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, IL. This year’s theme is “Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!” Guest speakers will explore how we can live out our calling as Christians in our daily lives. The retreat is Wednesday and Thursday, April 15 and 16. Registration fee for workshops, meals, and entertainment is \$135 per person. See the bulletin board for more information.

Midweek Lent and Holy Week Services

Wed., Mar. 18: Midweek Lent worship at **St. John's** beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 25: Midweek Lent worship at **St. John's** beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sun., Mar. 29: Palm Sunday worship with Confirmation at **St. John's** beginning at 10 a.m.

Thu., Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion at **St. John's** beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Fri., Apr. 3: Good Friday worship at **St. Peter's** beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sun., Apr. 5: Easter Sunrise worship with Holy Communion at **St. John's** beginning at 6:30 a.m.

Sun. Apr. 5: Easter Morning worship with Holy Communion **at St. Peter's beginning at 10 a.m.**